IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims to read as indicated below.

1. (currently amended) A system providing cardiac stimulation in combination with an endoscopic imaging probe, comprising:

a disposable, removable sheath sized to attach to an endoscopic imaging probe;

a cardiac stimulation electrical conductor integrated in the sheath; and

an electrical cable, attached to the cardiac stimulation electrical conductor and extending from the sheath, and adapted to be connected to an external defibrillator. ~~transthoracic pad connected to the sheath and that includes providing the cardiac stimulation to the patient in combination with the conductor by providing two conductive paths, wherein the transthoracic pad acts as a cathode in a first conductive path that travels from the conductor to the transthoracic pad via a chest wall of a patient and as an anode in a second conductive path that travels from the transthoracic pad to the conductor via the chest wall.~~

2. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 1, further comprising

~~an electrically conductive, insulated cable embedded in the sheath and extending from the conductor to a proximal end of the sheath to the transthoracic pad, and~~

a connector receiving the cable and adapted to connect the cable to the external defibrillator; and

~~connecting the sheath and the~~a transthoracic pad connected to ~~a~~ the external defibrillator for the cardiac stimulation.

3. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 1, ~~wherein the conductor is located at or near a distal end of the sheath~~further comprising a second cardiac stimulation electrical conductor located on the sheath,

wherein an electrical path for cardiac stimulation is provided between the first and second conductors.

4. (original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the sheath comprises a flexible membrane material.

5. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the endoscopic imaging probe further ~~comprising~~ comprises a probe insertable through a mouth into an esophagus of a patient, wherein the probe is covered by the sheath, and wherein the sheath comprises an insulation type coating comprising suitable dielectric strength inside a cavity of the sheath to protect the probe from damage by energy applied during the cardiac stimulation.

6. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the endoscopic probe is designed for insertion into the esophagus of a subject; and

_____wherein the sheath further comprises an inflatable balloon positioned behind the conductor and closing a gap between the ~~esophagus~~ conductor and the sheath when inflated and pushing the conductor against a wall of the esophagus.

7. - 8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim ~~7~~3, wherein ~~the~~ at least one of the first and second conductors ~~is located at or near a distal end of the sheath~~comprises a plurality of electrically connected conductors.

10. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim ~~7~~1, wherein the conductor is acoustically transparent.

11. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim ~~7~~5, wherein the ~~sheath~~ endoscopic imaging probe further comprises a transesophageal ultrasound probe~~flexible membrane material~~.

12. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim ~~7~~1, wherein the cardiac stimulation comprises cardioversion, defibrillation or pacing in atria of ~~the patient~~a subject.

13. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim ~~7~~1, wherein the cardiac stimulation comprises cardioversion, defibrillation, or pacing in ventricles of ~~the patient~~a subject.

14. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim ~~7~~1, wherein the cardiac stimulation comprises cardioversion, defibrillation, or pacing of any of a plurality of pacemaker sites within a heart of ~~the patient~~a subject.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim ~~7~~2, wherein the transthoracic pad is positioned over a thorax of ~~the patient~~a subject.

17. - 25. (canceled)